

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
APRIL 15, 2014 MEETING
Approved 5/20/14

RESERVOIR COMMITTEE
Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Randy Batchelor, Lisa Fredman, Martine Gougault, Elizabeth Karpati, Ann LeRoyer, Stefan Miller, David White, guest Mike Tabaczinsky.

Facilitator: David White

Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

2014 meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, May 20 June 17 July 15 Aug. 19 Sept. 16 Oct. 21
Nov. 18 Dec. 16. Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room.

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of the February meeting were accepted as presented. There was no March meeting,
2. **Cleanup:** The first spring cleanup is scheduled for Sunday, April 27, 9:30-12:30. Mulch from DPW will not yet be available, but we can get and spread some wood chips, pull grass, reattach climbers to the fences where needed, and move parts of overgrown clumps of the native grasses to the “island.” Pruning should be done later.
3. **Covenant School:** The kindergarten curriculum is built around the Res and the children have been gathering information for a guide to the Res (a two-sided sheet) since the fall. We can put it on the website and put printed copies in the library and in containers at the kiosk and the beach.
4. **Lexington Trails:** Mike Tabaczynski of ACROSS Lexington presented the plans of this group to add a walking trail route in East Lexington to the two already existing in central Lexington. These would not involve any construction, just the placement of unobtrusive aluminum markers indicating where people can walk to complete a loop of several miles, largely through natural areas but near commercial areas.
5. **Relevance for Arlington:**
 - Parts of the planned new routes would go through land owned by Arlington, at the Res and at Great Meadows, so approval from the Arlington Board of Selectmen would be needed. The matter is on the Arlington Con Com’s agenda for this week.
 - The markers would be installed by volunteers but financed from CPA funds – one more example of the benefits of adopting CPA.
 - Approving the trails through Arlington-owned land would be another accomplishment for listing in the 2014 Open Space Plan, under the heading of regional cooperation.
 - The trails can be mentioned in the “Walking in Arlington” guide now being revised.
 - We are supportive of the plan and think that adding a Res loop trail that connects to the shopping area in the Heights would also be a good addition.
6. **Kiosk:** Stefan reported that the one for the garden is finished. The best spot for it can be chosen during the cleanup on April 27. (Deferred because Stephan had the bikeway cleanup on that date.)
7. **Signage discussion:** We already have some identification signage in the garden. Should this be repeated on the garden kiosk? Should this kiosk be reserved for information about plants, e.g. what blooms when, with other items being put on the kiosk near the “island,” such as dates of meetings and a bird list? A chalkboard for noting sightings of birds and other

animals could be added. How often should the kiosks be updated and who would do it? Do we need to worry about vandalism?

8. **Parking lot:** It is being used after snowstorms for storing snow that DPW clears from streets and intersections until they melt, with the reluctant permission of the Con Com because Arlington has no other space for this. Melted snow ends up in the Res, largely filtered through soil, but some snowmelt and trash may enter directly – there is a silt barrier but it appears only partially effective. DPW cleans up and regrades the parking lot after the winter. Randy Batchelor proposes constructing a swale to keep direct runoff out of the Res, but space is a problem: the parking area is fully used in the summer.
9. **Housing at Busa site:** The Arlington Con Com has written to its Lexington counterpart, expressing concern about water quality problems associated with storm water runoff from Lexington. Since additional housing is being planned on the Busa site that would be an appropriate time for Lexington to address those issues.
10. **Fundraising ideas:** The Res calendar was successful but doing another one for 2015 would be too soon. The Arlington Parks Alliance (formerly Friends of Parks) is planning a fundraising party at the Res on July 26. Including moonlight tours of the habitat garden was suggested. [*P.S. Oops – no moonlight that night – it is the date of new moon.*]